

Section 5.5 Outdoor Lighting

A. Permit Required

Unless otherwise exempt by Section 5.5-B Exempt Lighting, all outdoor lighting fixtures for new multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, mixed use, and public/quasi-public uses require Development Review approval by the designated approving authority pursuant to Section 2.1 Development Review. Such approval shall be granted in conjunction with required land use and development permits for a project. Any retrofit or amendment to an existing site and/or building lighting that would have a measurable impact on abutting property or views from street right-of-way as determined by the Planning Director shall require Minor Development Review approval.

B. Exempt Lighting

The following items shall be exempt from Minor Development Review requirements:

1. All outdoor light fixtures producing light directly by the combustion of fossil fuels, such as kerosene lanterns or gas fixtures.
2. Temporary lights used for holiday decorations.
3. Lighting for temporary uses and special events permitted consistent with this code.

C. Prohibited Lighting

The following types of lighting are prohibited:

1. Neon tubing or band lighting along buildings and/or structures as articulation, except as approved through Minor Development Review.
2. Search lights, laser source lights, or any similar high-intensity light, except for emergency use by police or fire personnel at their discretion, or for lighting approved by the City for a temporary event.
3. Lighting fixtures operated in such a manner as to constitute a hazard or danger to persons or to safe vehicular travel.
4. Illumination of entire buildings, except for public, civic, and religious buildings.
5. Roof-mounted lighting except for security purposes.
6. Moving, flashing, or animated lighting.

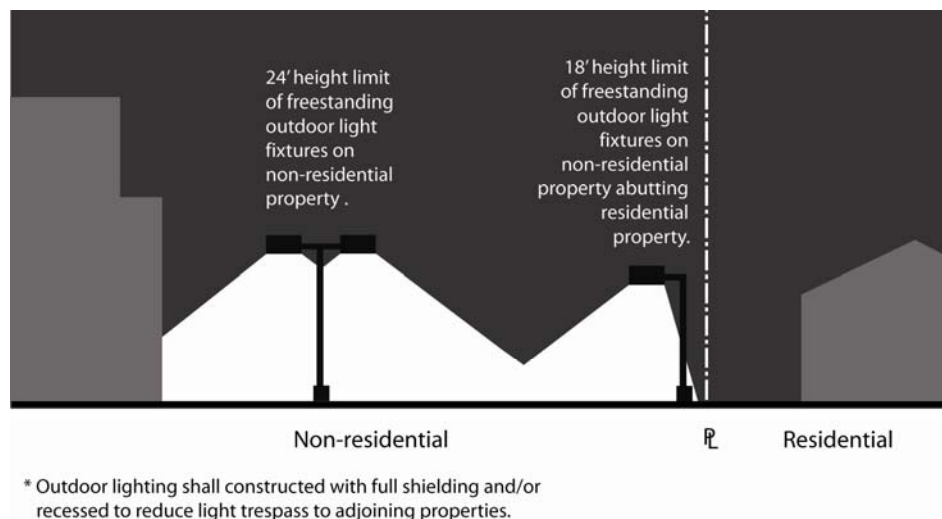
D. General Lighting Standards

The following standards shall apply to all outdoor lighting.

1. **Maintenance.** Fixtures and lighting shall be maintained in good working order and in a manner that serves the original design intent.
2. **Shielding.** Except as otherwise exempt, all outdoor lighting shall be constructed with full shielding and/or recessed to reduce light trespass to adjoining properties. Each fixture shall be directed downward and away from adjoining properties and public rights-of-way, so that no light fixture directly illuminates an area outside of the site (see Figure 5.5-1 Shielding and Maximum Height of Freestanding Outdoor Light Fixtures, below).

3. **Level of illumination.** Outdoor lighting shall be designed to illuminate at the minimum level necessary for safety and security and to avoid the harsh contrasts in lighting levels between the project site and adjacent properties. Illumination standards are as follows:
 - a. Parking lots, driveways, trash enclosures/areas, public phones, and group mailboxes shall be illuminated with a minimum maintained one (1) foot-candle of light and an average not to exceed four (4) foot-candles of light.
 - b. Convenience stores, card rooms, and check-cashing establishments shall provide a minimum level of illumination of one and one-half (1.5) foot-candles across the parking lot during business hours.
 - c. Pedestrian walkways shall be illuminated with a minimum maintained one-half (1/2) foot-candle of light and an average not to exceed two (2) foot-candles of light.
 - d. Entryways and exterior doors of nonresidential structures shall be illuminated during the hours of darkness, with a minimum maintained one (1) foot-candle of light, measured within a five (5)-foot radius on each side of the door at ground level.
 - e. In order to minimize light trespass on abutting residential property, illumination measured at the nearest residential structure or rear yard setback line shall not exceed the moon's potential ambient illumination of one-tenth (1/10) foot-candle.
 - f. Athletic facilities may exceed the specified levels of illumination as needed. Measures shall be taken to minimize glare off-site.
4. **Maximum height of freestanding outdoor light fixtures.** The maximum height of freestanding outdoor light fixtures and related structures is limited as follows:
 - a. Eighteen (18) feet when abutting or within twenty-five (25) feet of residential zoning district.
 - b. No height limit for lights on public property when used to illuminate athletic fields.
 - c. Twenty-four (24) feet for all other lights.
 - d. Height shall be measured from the finish grade, inclusive of the pedestal, to the top of the fixture.

Figure 5.5-1: Shielding and Maximum Height of Freestanding Outdoor Light Fixtures



5. **Energy-efficient fixtures required.** Outdoor lighting shall utilize energy-efficient (high-pressure sodium, metal halide, low-pressure sodium, hard-wired compact fluorescent, or other lighting technology that is of equal or greater efficiency) fixtures and lamps. All new outdoor lighting fixtures shall be energy efficient with a rated average bulb life of not less than ten thousand (10,000) hours.
6. **Accent lighting.** Architectural features may be illuminated by uplighting provided that the lamps are low intensity to produce a subtle lighting effect and no glare or light trespass is produced. Wherever feasible, solar powered fixtures shall be used. In the Chino Airport Influence Area, uplighting is not permitted. Refer to the most recently adopted version of the Chino Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
7. **Signs.** Lighting of signs shall be in compliance with Section 5.7 Signs of this code.
8. **Sports fields/outdoor activity areas.** Where playing fields or other special activity areas are to be illuminated, lighting fixtures shall be mounted, aimed, and shielded so that the light falls within the primary playing area and no significant off-site light trespass is produced. Lights shall be turned off within one (1) hour after the end of the event, and no later than 11:00 p.m.
9. **Alternative designs, materials, and installations.** The designated approving authority may grant approval of alternatives to this section as part of a Development Review process.

E. Outdoor Lighting Plans Required

1. **When required.** A preliminary outdoor lighting plan shall be submitted as part of each planning permit application, and a final plan shall be submitted as part of an application for a building permit for a new structure or an addition of 25 percent of the gross floor area, seating capacity, or parking spaces. A final outdoor lighting plan is required for all new outdoor lighting installations on commercial, mixed-use, multiunit residential, industrial, and institutional properties. The Director may request outdoor lighting plans from applicants for other types of projects due to location, size, or proposed use, as necessary.
2. **Plan content.** At a minimum, an outdoor lighting plan shall include the following:
 - a. Manufacturer specifications sheets, cut sheets, and other manufacturer-provided information for all proposed outdoor light fixtures to show fixture diagrams and outdoor light output levels;
 - b. The proposed location, mounting height, and aiming point of all outdoor lighting fixtures;
 - c. If building elevations are proposed for illumination, drawings of all relevant building elevations showing the fixtures, the portions of the elevations to be illuminated, the illumination level of the elevations, and the aiming point for any remote light fixture;
 - d. Photometric data including a computer-generated photometric grid showing foot-candle readings every ten (10) feet within the property or site and ten (10) feet beyond the property lines.